

Accelerated Access Authorization Program

- **What is the function of the drug test?**

The drug test screens for current use of marijuana, opiates, cocaine, amphetamines, and phencyclidine.

- **What is the function of the psychological test and interview?**

This assesses the applicant's psychological status including stability and reliability as it relates to the applicant's trustworthiness.

- **What is the function of the polygraph examination?**

The polygraph examination helps DOE determine whether an applicant has been involved in espionage, sabotage, or terrorism; has disclosed classified information to unauthorized persons; or has had unauthorized foreign contact. All questions are reviewed and discussed with the applicant before the actual testing takes place.

- **What happens to the test results?**

Results become part of the applicant's Personnel Security File and, if successfully completed, are provided to DOE Headquarters for consideration in the granting of the "Q" IAA.

- **How do applicants learn the results of their testing?**

If DOE grants an applicant's "Q" IAA, the applicant's employer will be notified and will, in turn, notify the applicant. If DOE is unable to continue processing the case under the AAAP, the applicant, as well as the applicant's employer, will be notified in writing by the requesting Operations Office.

- **How do applicants benefit by participating in this program?**

They can start working sooner. When DOE grants them a

"Q" IAA they will have access to the classified information necessary to the job they were hired to do while DOE is completing the standard access authorization process.

- **What if an applicant prefers not to participate in the AAAP?**

The applicant will be processed through the standard access authorization procedures.

- **Can the AAAP be conducted at locations other than the Test Center in Albuquerque?**

Yes. For details about availability, costs, and reimbursements, Operations Offices should contact the DOE AAAP Program Manager (see below).

- **What if I have more questions?**

The AAAP Program Manager is:

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Office of Security and Emergency Operations
Office of Safeguards and Security
Headquarters Operations Division
U.S. Department of Energy



Accelerated Access Authorization Program

What is the AAAP?

The Department of Energy (DOE) established the Accelerated Access Authorization Program (AAAP) to expedite the granting of “Q” access authorizations (security clearances) for DOE Federal and contractor employees. When an applicant successfully completes the AAAP, the DOE can grant a “Q” interim access authorization (IAA), which allows the person to begin working with classified material before the standard background investigation is complete. This is a significant improvement over the lengthy delays often associated with the traditional clearance process.

Important: Participation in the AAAP is strictly voluntary. It does not replace the standard “Q” access authorization process, which requires the completion of a Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI), but it does allow individuals to obtain a security clearance so that they can begin working sooner.

Applicants who volunteer for the AAAP, and who are accepted into the program, participate in three testing elements during two days at the DOE Test Center in Albuquerque. In addition to reviewing the outcome of these testing elements, DOE initiates and reviews a “National Agency Check with Credit” (as part of the required SSBI) and carefully evaluates the information listed on the applicant’s security paperwork.

AAAP testing elements are as follows:

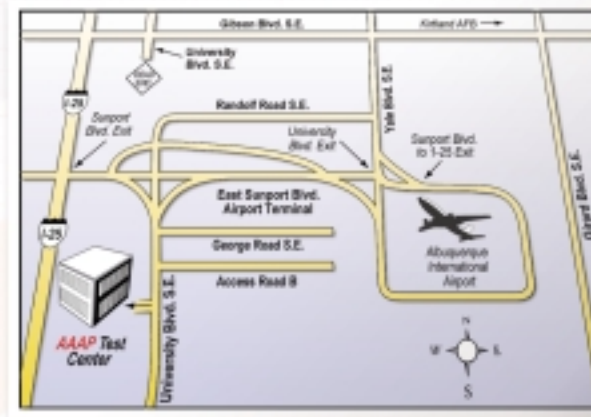
- **A structured clinical interview** is conducted by a fully licensed, DOE-certified clinical psychologist, and the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2nd Edition (MMPI-2), a widely used personality assessment instrument, is administered. Test results are evaluated by the psychologist and integrated with the results of the interview.
- **Drug testing by urinalysis** is accomplished by a staff qualified to oversee the necessary sample collection procedures. The sample is secured and transported to a

DOE-approved laboratory. An independent medical review officer then evaluates the results to make a final determination. The applicant’s privacy is protected at all times and chain-of-custody procedures are employed to assure protection of the sample.

- **A polygraph examination** that addresses only national security concerns and not “lifestyle” issues or personal matters or beliefs is performed. The examination is conducted by DOE certified senior polygraph examiners and adheres strictly to DOE Standard Operating Procedures and Department of Defense Polygraph Institute guidelines. DOE senior polygraph quality control specialists carefully review all polygraph results.

Within seven days, the Test Center furnishes results to the requesting DOE Operations Office. That office then sends the “Q” IAA request to DOE Headquarters, Office of Security Affairs, for approval. Once the AAAP testing is successfully completed, the “Q” IAA is usually granted within 20 working days.

Where does all this happen?



DOE Test Center
Airport Professional Center
3201 University Boulevard SE, Suite 204
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

The DOE Test Center’s location (see address and map) is convenient not only to the Albuquerque International Airport, but also to major hotels and restaurants.

Frequently asked questions

• What rules and regulations govern the AAAP?

The AAAP procedure is mandated by DOE O 472.1B, Personnel Security Activities; and by DOE M 472.1-1A, Personnel Security Program Manual.

• What are the criteria for an AAAP-processed interim access authorization?

In addition to favorable results of the three AAAP test elements, eligibility also depends on acceptable results of both a thorough review of the applicant’s completed “Questionnaire for National Security Positions,” and the “National Agency Check with Credit.”

• What happens if someone is disqualified from participation in the AAAP?

Although security considerations that arise during the AAAP processing may disqualify an individual from participation in the program, this does not mean that the individual is disqualified from receiving a security clearance. DOE will continue with the standard access authorization process, including completion and adjudication of the full background investigation, that is required before final access authorization determination can be made.

• Can an applicant withdraw from the program after being accepted?

Yes, an applicant may withdraw from the AAAP at any time during the process. Withdrawal, in itself, does not reflect adversely on an individual’s eligibility for an access authorization.